

THE NORTH BAY PROGRESS

Serving all of Solano County

Volume 1, Number 8

December 1991

KWANZAA!

Along with other holiday celebrations this month area residents in Solano County will end 1991 and start 1992 in some exciting ways. Of course, most of us still celebrate the traditional Christmas season with the traditional tree, trimmings and gift-giving. And increasingly, many area residents are also celebrating another growing tradition—Kwanzaa. This seven-day celebration is based on our rich African heritage. From Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, celebrants observe the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa that can serve to benefit our community all year 'round.

HOW IT STARTED

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, Ph.D., associate professor and chairperson of Black Studies at the California State University at Long Beach and author of *The African-American Holiday of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture* (University of San Kore Press; paperback, \$9.95). This seven-day celebration, which begins on Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, isn't considered a religious holiday or an alternative to Christmas.

Kwanzaa which means "the first

fruits of the harvest" in the East African language of Kiswahili, is a time when friends and family members can make a cultural statement and exchange symbolic, rather than extravagant, gifts (known as Zawadi). These include handmade crafts, dolls, art and literature reflecting our heritage and books by Black authors.

You can decorate your home and prepare your table for Kwanzaa with any of the following symbols; fruits and vegetables (Mazao); starw placemats (Mkeka); a candle holder (Kinara) with seven candles (Mishumaa Saba), three green, three red and one black; ears of corn (Vibunzi) and the unity or communal cup (Kikombe cha umoja).

The blessing of Kwanzaa lies in its seven fundamental principles (known as the Nguzo Saba) celebrated daily in this order: Umoja (unity); Kujichagulia (self-determination); Ujima (collective work and responsibility); Ujamaa (cooperative economics); Nia (purpose); Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Dedicate each day of the festival to one of the principles and light one of the seven candles.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

Umoja (Unity): This is a day when the family comes together and reflects on our African past and our American present, knowing that both will guide us through adversity. At dinner-time the importance of unity can be explained to our children and they may recite the principle: If we embrace Unity and believe in ourselves, our families and our leaders, we will be victorious in our struggles as individuals and as a race.

Kujichagulia (Self-determination): Celebrate our determination as a race to define, name and create a better world for ourselves than we could possibly imagine.

Ujima (collective work and responsibility): Collectively, we must work together to build a stronger com-

Wilma Rudolph In Vallejo

On Dec. 7, the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club, Inc., of Vallejo will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, a gala banquet will be held at McCormick Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, at seven o'clock in the evening.

Wilma Rudolph, Olympic Gold Medal winner will serve as guest speaker for the event.

In 1960, a tall, young, black girl from Clarksville, Tennessee, raced her way to fame at the Rome Olympic Games—the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympiad.

Since those memorable days that placed her name in record books, she has maintained a special place in the hearts of people. Rudolph "La Gazette Noire" - is respected and applauded worldwide for her accomplishments and the hope she inspires in others. She has served as a consultant for the United States in a Department of Labor training program and as Goodwill Ambassador to French West



Wilma Rudolph

Africa.

A capable and versatile professional woman, she has been Administrative

Continued on page 2



Continued on page 2

*Merry
Christmas*

from

THE NORTH
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Kwanzaa

Continued from page 1

munity. By feeling a sense of responsibility for the welfare of the African-American community, and helping to solve many issues facing our community, makes Ujima a principle we can all work towards throughout the year.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): We all profit from our collective efforts. We can build and maintain our communities with Black-owned stores, restaurants and other service businesses. (Mazaa) Fruits and vegetables symbolize the rewards of our collective productive labor.

Nia (Purpose): With a strong sense of purpose we can restore our people to our traditional greatness by acknowledging the true meaning of our common goal: to build a powerful nation from our positive individual endeavors.

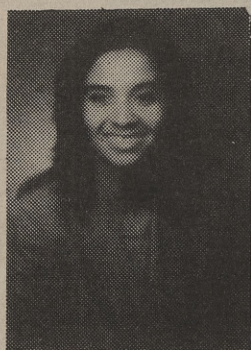
Kuumba (Creativity): When we celebrate this principle, we can give thanks for the wonderful fruits of our creative powers. Put together a celebration that will be remembered for years by preparing a simple, nourishing meal; by making gifts that come from our heart; and by sharing our home, food and music with our friends, family and neighbors, as our ancestors did at harvest time. Let us rejoice together and apply our creative minds to fashioning ways to nourish, nurture and heal the African-American nation.

Imani (Faith): It is the tradition to celebrate the principle of Faith on the last day of Kwanzaa by pouring libation in celebration of the first fruits of the harvest in the New Year. Place water in the communal cup and pour it in the direction of the four winds (north, south, east and west).

Black Infant Health Program To Hold Breakfast

The Black Infant Health Program of Solano County will hold a holiday breakfast and awards program on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Holiday Inn, 1000 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. The event starts at 9 a.m. For information, please call (707) 553-5055.

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Wilma Rudolph

Continued from page 1

Analyst at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); Human Resources Executive at Commerce Union Bank at Nashville; and Special Consultant for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Rudolph is one of the most popular lecturers on the college circuit. She stimulates audiences with her compelling and motivational presentations. She is an amiable talk-show personality-vividly describing her climb from being the daughter of a poor, but proud, Handyman to the especially inspiring person she is today.

Rudolph told her early life's story in the autobiography, **WILMA**, which became a best seller and served as the

basis for a two-hour, primetime movie on the NBC network. The movie traced her life, the twentieth of twenty-two children, from a series of childhood illnesses-scarlet fever, double pneumonia, and polio-to the electrifying performances at the Rome Olympic Games. Variety magazine ranked the movie 15th for the 1977-78 television season and it was released to cable television during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

The club was organized in 1966 by Philmore Graham, with six young boys in central Vallejo. Today, it boasts a membership in excess of 1,200, from all areas of the city. Members range in age from seven years to college age. The club has further grown to now include chapters from Vallejo to Santa Barbara.



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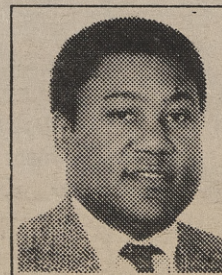
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HOLIDAY THINGS TO DO!!

The holidays are a time for all kinds of events around the Bay Area. From plays in Berkeley, to KWANZAA, area residents have an opportunity to partake in activities that the whole family can enjoy. The North Bay Progress has compiled a few events, and places you can go for some relevant fun.

*Want to buy a special piece of Black art for someone special? Stop by Afrique Boutique, Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo. Looking more like a gallery than a shop, you will find a number of beautiful pieces for yourself, or someone special.

*A number of area business people are selling some dynamic Black art prints. Stop by Mary Atrice's Peculiar Treasures, 308 Mini Drive, Vallejo, and see her collection, which not only includes old artifacts, but some of the latest prints.

*If you are over in the Bay Area, why not stop off at Marcus Book Store, 3900 Martin Luther King Drive, Oakland where you can pick up books, games, magazines and other items that deal directly with the African-American experience. Check out their Kente Cloth-inspired gift wrap (which you

can also buy) or their red, black and green gift wrap. For a small fee they will wrap your gifts, or you can buy the wrap so you can do your own thing.

*If you get a chance, stop by Samuel's Gallery, Jack London Square on Dec. 8. Artist Brenda Joy Smith will be on hand to sign her latest works that deal with male mentoring.

*And what would the holidays be without having lunch or dinner at the Gingerbread House. This beautiful restaurant, owned and operated by a Black woman, is absolutely sweet! If you love dolls, you will absolutely love this quaint eatery, located at 741-5th Street. Remember you have to make

reservations for dinner. Call (510) 444-7373.

*On the theatre scene, why not check out "St. Louis Woman" at the Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline Street, Berkeley. This musical will run through Dec. 14. Call (510) 652-2120.

*"Spunk", a play adapted from the works of Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston, is pulling in audiences at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Using masks, puppets and music, this wonderful work will delight all those who see it. Call (415) 845-4700 for information. The Theater is located at 2025 Addison Street.

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ELDER LAW

Senior Citizens Know Your Rights!!

By Attorney F. Douglas Lofton

I am an Elder Law Attorney. My law firm, Lofton & Lofton, is located in Benicia. You may be asking—what is an Elder Law Attorney? An Elder Law Attorney is an attorney who focuses his or her law practice on serving a specific type of client—senior citizens. Consequently, Elder law encompasses a variety of legal areas as they pertain to the senior's specific legal problem. These areas include Wills, Trusts, Probate, Social Security, Medi-Cal, Medicare and many others.

The latest census figures confirm what many of us have already known—Black America is aging. In spite of the high rates of death due to cancer, heart attacks, and homicide Black people, on average continue to grow older. In fact, according to the latest U.S. Census data, the Black Elderly comprise the single largest growing segment of the Black population.

In 1989, approximately 31 million Americans—12.5 percent of the U.S. population—were 65 years or older. Of these, about 2.5 million were Black Elderly. In 2030, the 65 and over group is expected to number about 66 million—of these, more than 7 million will be Black.

Despite our increasingly large senior population, few of our seniors are informed on legal matters. Consequently much of the wealth in our community has been lost from failure to engage in proper legal planning.

I am writing this monthly column in order to address the legal concerns of Black senior citizens and their supporting family members. In this column, I will address such legal issues as:

• "Why should I have a Will?"

• "What is a Living Trust and why are they so popular today?"

• "What are the legal requirements for qualifying for such public benefits as Medi-Cal, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income?"

I will also provide information on the community services available to seniors.

Although this column will address the legal concerns of our seniors, this column is not solely written for senior citizens. Many of us are caring for an older family member such as a parent, or uncle. Alzheimer's disease, strokes, heart attacks, are just some of the illnesses that many our seniors suffer which prevent seniors from caring for themselves. The help of family members becomes crucial to their survival, and the retention of their dignity. As a caregiver relative, therefore, it is important that you are informed about legal matters so that you can insure that your relative's legal rights are

protected.

If you have a legal question that you would like addressed in this column that pertains to senior citizens, please mail your question and I will respond to it through this column. In answering your questions, we increase our collective knowledge. Each month I will respond at least one legal question. Please mail your questions to North Bay Progress: Attention Doug Lofton.

Knowledge is power, and this column seeks to empower our seniors and their families through increased legal knowledge and understanding.

Please look for my column in the months ahead.

Attorney Lofton can be reached at (707) 745-1362.

Have A Happy & Safe Holiday!!!



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

First Complete Retrospective Of Bearden's Life Work In L.A.

New York—The Studio Museum in Harlem has organized the first major retrospective of the entire career of

Romare Bearden (1912-88). *Memory and Metaphor: The Art of Romare Bearden, 1940-1987* includes 140 works

representing Bearden's art and evolution in watercolors, oils, and the collages for which he is best known. The exhibition will be on view at the Wight Gallery, UCLA, Los Angeles through Feb. 2. A five-day national tour will continue through January 1993. The exhibition and its national tour are sponsored by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

"The Studio Museum is an ideal organizing institution of the first full retrospective of the art of Romare Bearden, one of the most important and prolific artists of the 20th century," according to Museum Director Kinshasha Holman Conwill. "Since its inception, the Museum has been dedicated to the critical examination of the art of Black America and the African Diaspora, including emerging, mid-career and established artists like Bearden. We're especially enthusiastic about presenting this exhibition in Harlem, Bearden's home and a theme in his work during much of his career." Mrs. Conwill also notes, "Romare Bearden's art is critical to the understanding of twentieth-century American art—his influence, the power of his vision, and his mastery of expression are singular."

"As firm believers in the creative power of the American spirit, in all its multiplicity and diversity, Philip Morris is proud to join in the celebration of this remarkable and versatile American artist," said Hamish Maxwell, chairman and chief executive officer, Philip Morris Companies Inc. "Over the years we have grown to know Bearden's work well through our sponsorships. We applaud the Studio Museum for assuming the vital task of securing for him a rightful place at the core of our national culture."

Major funding for the exhibition and the accompanying catalogue has been provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. Dr. Sharon F. Patton, exhibition curator and chief curator at the Studio Museum, has written a major essay for the catalogue. The catalogue also includes an essay by premier Bearden scholar Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, New York City commissioner of cultural affairs, which places Bearden in the context of the history of American art. The introduction is by Kinshasha Holman

Conwill.

In the catalogue, published by the Museum and Oxford University Press, Dr. Patton states that Bearden commemorated life in his art. "He depicted the cycle of life and the rituals and social customs essential to it in twentieth-century America. Spiritual ceremonies, baptism and burial, daily life and work in Black America were Bearden's subjects and at the heart of his aesthetic."

The exhibition presents works by theme according to distinctive periods in Bearden's career. These themes include memories of Mecklenburg County (North Carolina), Harlem, Pittsburgh, and St. Martin. Within these groups are Bearden's well-known subjects: women, jazz, blues, myths and journeys.

Dr. Campbell writes, "Visually and iconographically, the complexity Bearden brought to bear on American culture was unprecedented in the history of American art." Thematic, stylistic and iconographic concerns have dictated the selection of representative works from fifty-three private collections, thirty American museums, ten galleries, three corporate collections, and one historical center. Many works have never been presented in the same exhibition, and some have never been shown publicly.

During the exhibition, the Museum will present a range of public and school programs related to Bearden's work and life. These include the annual performance series, *Vital Expressions in American Art*, which will use the art and life of Bearden as the theme for the series. Curriculum materials will be distributed to schools and groups at each of the exhibition's venues.

Following its presentation at the Studio Museum, the exhibition will travel to: The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia (Feb. 25-May 3, 1992); the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (May 30-July 28, 1992); and the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (Oct. 2, 1992-Jan. 4, 1993).

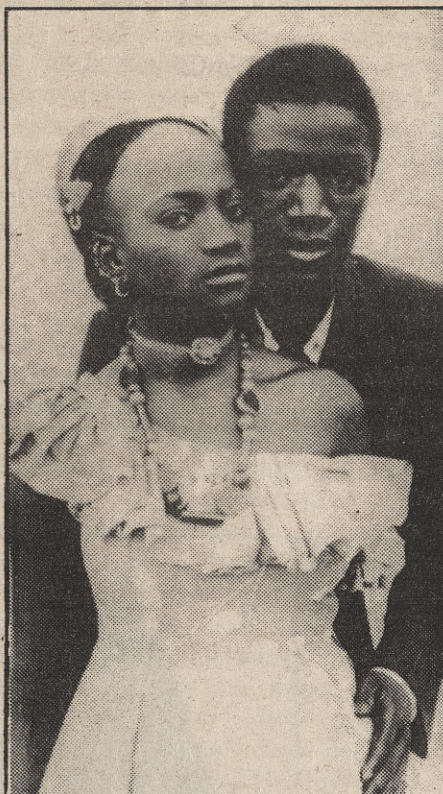
Additional support has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts. Operation of the Studio Museum is supported in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Africa Explores: Twentieth-Century African Art

Africa Explores: Twentieth-Century African Art, on view at the University Art Museum through Dec. 29, is the first exhibition to focus on the major themes and artistic innovations in African art of this century. Organized by The Center for African Art, New York City, the exhibition explores African art and artists within their own historical and social contexts. The UAM/PFA is planning an extensive schedule of films, educational programs, performances, and gallery tours in conjunction with this major exhibition.

African Explores demonstrates the continuing vitality of traditional art, which co-exists today with a modern art that is uniquely African. By weaving together the threads of African art of this century, the exhibition integrates the so-called "traditional," "modern," and "popular" arts, and focuses on the inter-relationships among the various kinds of contemporary work. Further, it reveals that, while Africa's contact with the West has been an important influence in the twentieth century, Western imagery and ideas are only elements in a matrix of pre-existing African styles and philosophies.

The exhibition contains approximately 55 paintings, sculptures, photographs, and mixed-media works by both self-taught and academically trained artists from throughout sub-Saharan Africa—Zaire, Nigeria,



Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast. The objects range from large wooden coffins in the shape of an airplane or chicken to contemporary paintings on canvas or flour sack, and traditional wood masks and figures. Also presented are older objects such as Benin bronze plaques and Kota figures that are no longer made but retain a powerful presence in today's Africa.

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Cecil Williams In Vallejo In February

Rev. Cecil Williams, Pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, will be the keynote speaker at an all day substance abuse conference for clergy, staff and congregation members. The event is sponsored by the Vallejo Ministerial Association, and the City of Vallejo "Fighting Back" Program.

It will be held at the Dan Foley Cultural Center in Vallejo on Feb. 25, 1992 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost will be \$15 to cover continental breakfast, lunch and training materials.

The purpose of the conference is to increase knowledge about substance abuse and related issues, local programs to prevent and treat chemical dependency, and the important role that churches can play toward reducing substance abuse problems. The program will be multi-denominational.

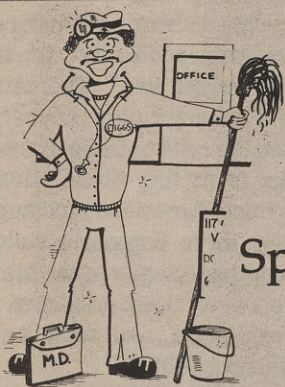
Members of the conference planning committee include:

Members of the conference planning committee include:

Pastor Bill Embree (St. Paul's Lutheran); Pastor W.B. Barnes (Macedonia Baptist); Pastor Phillip Lawson (First United Methodist); Pastor Louella Johnson (Friendship Baptist) and Pastor Carson Curcini (Church on the Hill).

They are asking that churches send a team consisting of clergy and lay people with the aim of developing action plans that can be carried out by local congregations.

For more information, contact Jane Callahan at the "Fighting Back" office (707) 648-5230.



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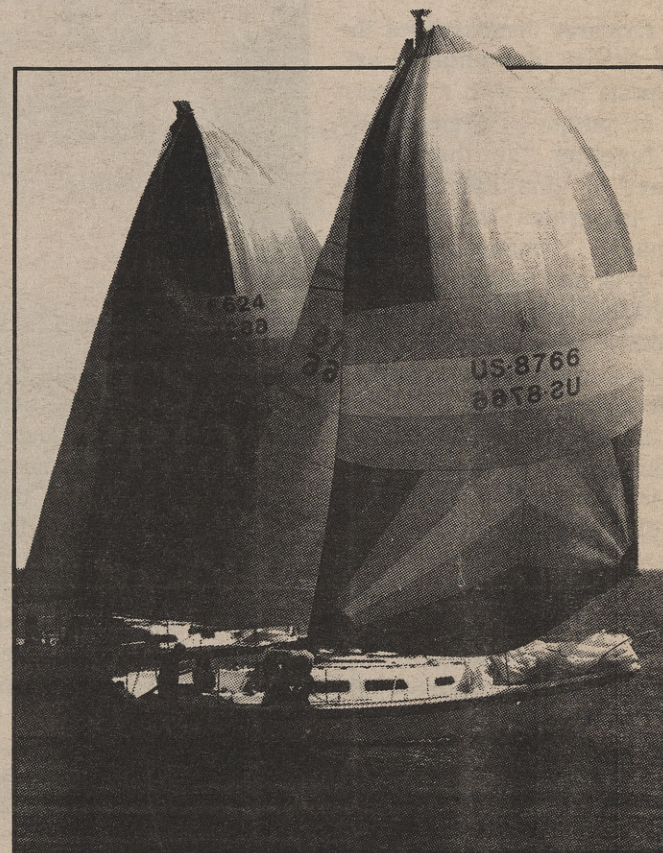
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Sermon Of The Month

"Where Are You Going?"

Luke 14:16-24

By Pastor Willie Floyd
King Solomon Baptist Church

This question has been asked time and time again. It has been asked of all of us at one time or another. Whether you know it or not, often when the question is asked we respond by telling where we have been, rather than where we are going.

The theme asks the question, "Where are you going?" The question is not suggesting that someone wants to know your business. In a way it seems to be asking what are you doing with your life, or your time?

Now, think with me, have you ever asked someone to do something that you felt was very important and listened to the excuse you got? I have had people say things such as, "I'm expecting a call from my cousin and I don't want to miss it," or they will make up something to make you think that you caught them at a bad time. I remember one time I asked this person to go to church and he asked, "What time does church let out?" I said around 1 p.m., and he said, "Well after thinking about it, that is going to be too late because I have to go to work at 11 p.m. Ten hours later and he couldn't go to church.

Now, let us take a look at the man in the Bible. He made a great supper for people just to show good faith. All the people he had invited meant that he

had plenty of food prepared. This also meant that a lot of time had been put into preparation. No doubt he hired cooks and waitresses to make sure everyone was taken good care of. The time came for the guests to arrive and none showed up. How disappointing it must have been, for people have always turned out in large numbers for free food. Before I give you all the excuses, they gave, let's take a look at some of the excuses we give. Everyday things like, "I'm tired." Think of all that Christ has done for us and look at our excuses. First thing, Christ came and we didn't send for him, he forgave our sins before we even loved him. Finally, he reopened the highway to heaven. After all of his giving he invites us to come unto him and we continue to give him excuses. My question to you is, "are we any better than those who refused to come to the great supper?"

Let us take a look at the excuses they gave for not attending the dinner. First, one said, "I bought some land and I needed to go and see about it." Keep in mind, it's supper time, What can you see at night? The next one had "bought some oxen and needed to try them out." Again, it was still night. Finally, we get a real excuse. One said he had "gotten married and he just could not come." Now you can understand how angry the man must have been after hearing such excuses. So, he called his servants and said, "go into the hedges and highways and

compel them to come." Jesus came to let us know that there will be another feast.

People with small ideas, people who always think little, take joy over the scripture that says, "Where there are two or three gathered in my name there I am in the midst." I want you to know that God is still doing business with a crowd. Yes, you can see where most people are going Monday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturday. They are going to work. On Sunday, the Lord's Day, if they get up at all it's only to mow the lawn or go fishing. If you ask a few of my fore-runners such as: Abraham, where are you going? Well Leggett, all I know is the Lord told me to get from around my people, so I'm looking for a city, Joseph, where are you going? I'm go-

ing to Egypt to be sold as a slave, Moses, where are you going? I'm going to the mountain for God want to talk with me. Joshua, where are you going? Leggett, when I get through walking around these walls of Jericho I'm going to the Promised Land.

Nehemiah, where are you going? I'm going to Jerusalem to build up the wall, Ezekiel, where are you going? I'm going to deliver a sermon in the valley of dry bones. Elijah, where are you going? Leggett, I'm going on Mt. Carmel and ask Israel one question, "How long halt ye between two opinions? So you ask me where am I going? Well, my brothers and sisters, when I get through carrying these burdens and sheeding these tears, I am going up yonder to be with the Lord.

Young Women's Council

The Women's Department of True Pentecostal Church, 131 Mendocino Street, Vallejo, presents their Second Annual Young Women's Council on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14. Services will begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the evening service on Saturday, there will be an afternoon program, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

This council will feature young, saved women, ages 13-35, as they expound on the topic: "Young Women Praying And Striving Towards Perfection,"

(Phil. 3:13-14); the sub-topic is: "Look Up, Straighten Up, Stand Up, and Speak Up." They will also minister in song each night along with other invited soloists, groups, and choirs.

Everyone, especially young women, is encouraged to come and worship the Lord with us and experience the move of God as the young women go forth in the Lord.

For additional information, call (707) 648-9312 or (707) 552-4619.

EVANGELICAL MISSION IN ACTION

Meals program for Homeless, Poor, Needy and Elderly. Meals are served at the Norman C. King Community Center every Thursday Noon until 2 p.m. We need food of all kinds for Christmas. Turkeys, Chickens, Canned Goods and fruits and nuts. We give out bags of groceries, also.

Send all donations, gifts to: P.O. Box 1487, Vallejo, CA 94590.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting (Wed.) Noon
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President Paradise District Congress
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Worship Services 1pm
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407 Capitol Street,
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Church: 648-9461

**Rev. M.D. Slade**

New Members Class 9:30 am
Church School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Nursery Open 10:30 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Communion (First Sunday) 6:00 pm
Evangelism Classes - Tuesday 7 pm
Prayer and Bible
Classes - Wednesday 7 pm

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Worship Service 12 noon
Prayer & Bible
Study - Wednesday 7:30 pm

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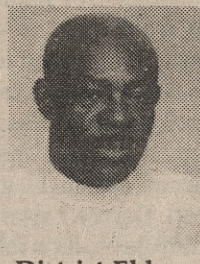
**Pastor Otis Cooper**

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Prayer and Bible
Study - Wednesday 7:00 pm
Communion service every
first Sunday
Choir Musical
Every 4th Sunday 6:00 pm

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Jerry Hubbard
Pastor**

Sunday School.....9:45 am
Morning Worship.....11:30 am
Young People Service.....6:00 pm
Evening Service.....7:00 pm
Bible Study Wed.....7:00 pm
Missionary Night Thur.....7:00 pm
Prayer Service Fri.. 7:00 pm

AND A HIGHWAY SHALL BE
THERE, AND A WAY. AND IT
SHALL BE CALLED THE WAY
OF HOLINESS. **ISAIAH 35:8**

HIGHWAY

Church of God in Christ

PH. (707) 553-8317 (707) 642-9867
525 Lincoln Rd. W., Vallejo, CA 94590

**PASTOR**

Elder Jeremiah Richardson

Sunday School 10 am
Worship Service 12 noon
Evening Service 7 pm
Tues. Bible Study 7 pm
Thursday Family Night 7 pm

**King Solomon Missionary
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11th and Military West
Benicia, CA 94510

**Pastor Rev. W. Floyd**

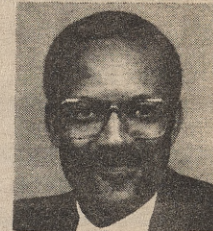
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Worship 9:45 am
Worship Services 11:00 am
First Sunday Communion
Monday - New
membership Training 7 pm
Wednesday - Prayer
Meeting 12:30 pm
Wednesday - Prayer and
Bible Study 7:30 pm

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SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 AM
WORSHIP
12:00 NOON
YOUNG PEOPLE
6:30 PM
EVENING WORSHIP
8:00 PM
TUESDAY PRAYER &
BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM
FRIDAY EVANGELIST
SERVICE 8:00 PM

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900 Marin Street,
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Ph. Church 648-9471

**Pastor Al Turnage**

Sunday School 10am
Worship Service 11am
Evening Worship 7pm
Mission (Monday) 12noon
Choir Rehearsal
(Tuesday) 7:30pm
Prayer and Bible
Study (Thursday) 7pm

**UNION
BAPTIST CHURCH**

123 Nugent Drive,
Vallejo, CA 94589
Church (707) 642-0870
Office (707) 552-4164

**Pastor Kemp Burley Jr.**

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:50 am
BTU 6:00 pm
Evening Worship
1st & 3rd Sunday 7:00 pm
The Lord's Supper 1st Sunday
Bible Study (Monday) 7:30 pm
Prayer Service (Wed.) 7:00 pm